

Storefront News for 1998-99 Season**Storefront Events for 1998-99 Season**

M U F
February - March, 1999

Kyong Park, the founder and director of the Storefront for Art and Architecture since 1982, has moved his base of operations to Detroit in order to concentrate on Storefront's special project **Home: Made in Detroit**. There he will be working closely with other institutions and community members to realize this collaborative project. A profile of the Detroit project will be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

Shirin Neshat, co-director of the Storefront since 1986, has moved on to devote time to her own work as an artist. Shirin will continue to serve as an advisor to Storefront.

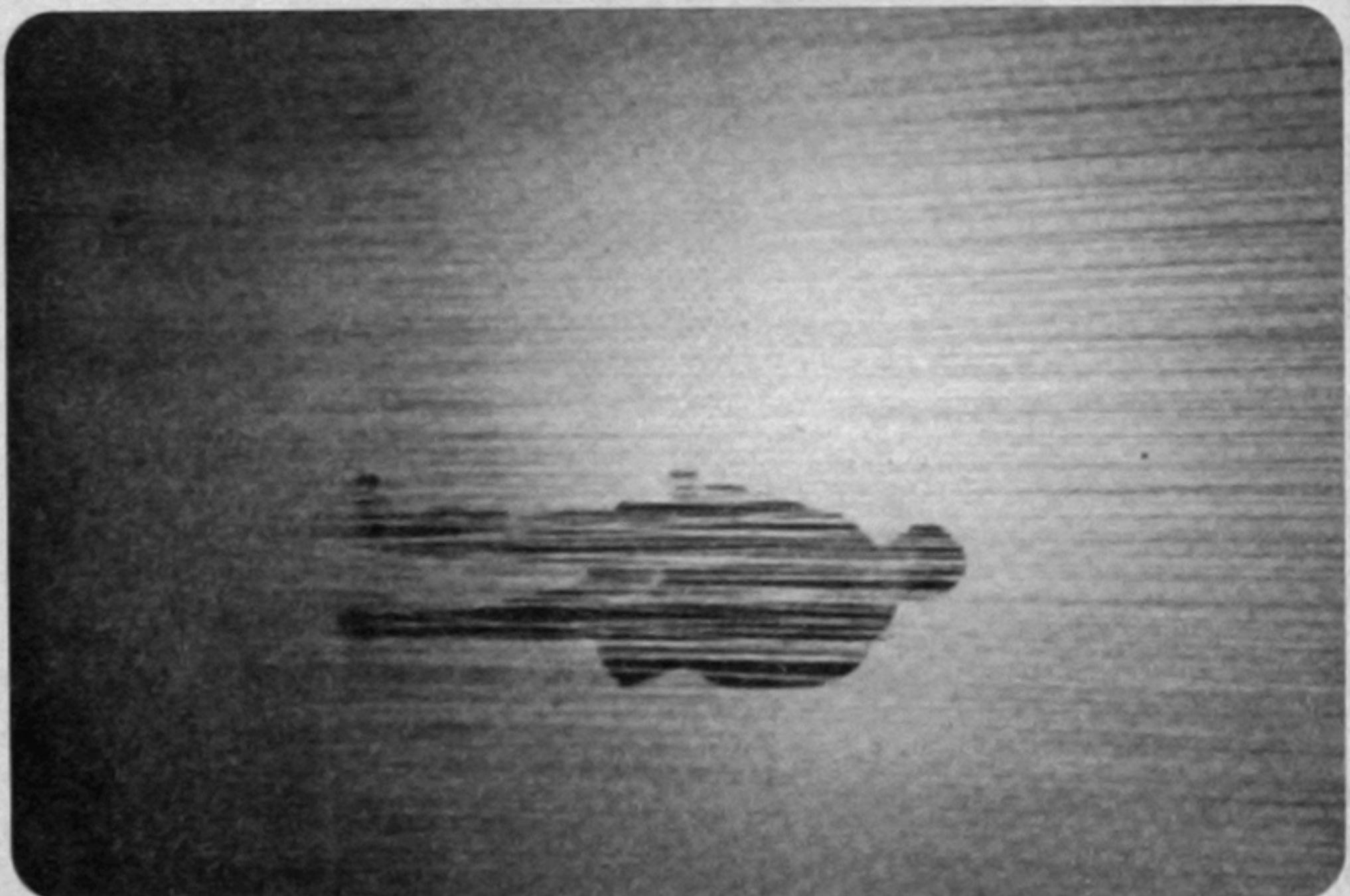
To ensure that Storefront continues to provide innovative programs and maintain its critical position in the art and architecture communities, the Board of Directors has hired **Sarah Herda** to be the new Managing Director. Most recently the Director of Sales and Marketing at The Monticelli Press, Sarah was also the Director of the Art and Architecture Exhibition Space/Center for Critical Architecture (CAES/CICA) in San Francisco, from 1995-1997.

C r i m s o n
May - June 1999

MUF (Modern Urban Fabric) is a collaborative practice of art and architecture, consisting of four members: Juliet Bidgood, Katherine Clarke, Liza Fior and Katherine Snodfield, predicated on the production of spaces that confront issues of exclusion and subject matter traditionally censored out of architecture. One issue at the core of their practice is gender. MUF will present an installation of their most recent work at Storefront which will include their proposal for the Museum for Women's Art and the Walsall Art Gallery in London. Most recently, MUF has been selected as one of the offices to design the interior pavilions of the Millennium Dome, the site of the United Kingdom's celebration of the millennium.

Yves Brunier
March - April, 1999

Storefront will present a posthumous exhibition of the work of the French landscape designer Yves Brunier. Brunier's work compels recognition of the practice of landscape architecture, in part because of the unique bridges he made between architecture and landscape. His representations of landscape are the most accomplished of any, notwithstanding the brevity of his career, curtailed by his death in 1991 at age 29. His collaborations with architects Rem Koolhaas and Jean Nouvel redefined the exchange between architecture and landscape architecture. His work transgresses the expectations and distinctions of landscapes relationship to architecture and anticipates its role as a connective urban tissue.

**STOREFRONT FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE**

97 KENMAR STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10012, U.S.A.

P. 212.431.5795 F. 212.431.5755 E. INFO@STOREFRONTNEWS.ORG

13 October 1998 - **11** January 1999
OPENING RECEPTION October 13, 6-8pm

an installation by Claude Léveque

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The Storefront Prize
July 1999

Storefront will sponsor an open submission student competition and the winners will be featured in an exhibition at Storefront. It will provide students of architecture and urban design with a unique opportunity to have their work presented and evaluated outside of their respective institutions. By presenting the Storefront Prize we hope to engage in the active investigation and promotion of the future community of architectural thinkers and practitioners. The results of the competitions will be published in a special edition of the newsletter. Submission details and deadlines will be announced in February 1999.

SFF 1998 - 1999

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October 13, 1998 - January 11, 1999**Reception October 13, 1998 6 - 8 pm**
Gallery Hours: Tues. - Sat., 11am-6pm**Claude Léveque**

Claude Léveque's installation at Storefront is presented in conjunction with the exhibition

Premises: Invested Spaces in Visual Arts, Architecture, and Design from France, 1958-98

Premises proposes a speculative and thematic approach to the past forty years of artistic and architectural practices concerned with the notions of site, location, territory, and the built environment.

Premises is the result of a unique collaboration between the curatorial teams of the Guggenheim Museum and the Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou, on view at the Guggenheim Museum Soho.

Claude Léveque's installation is made possible with the support of the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Storefront for Art and Architecture is supported by:

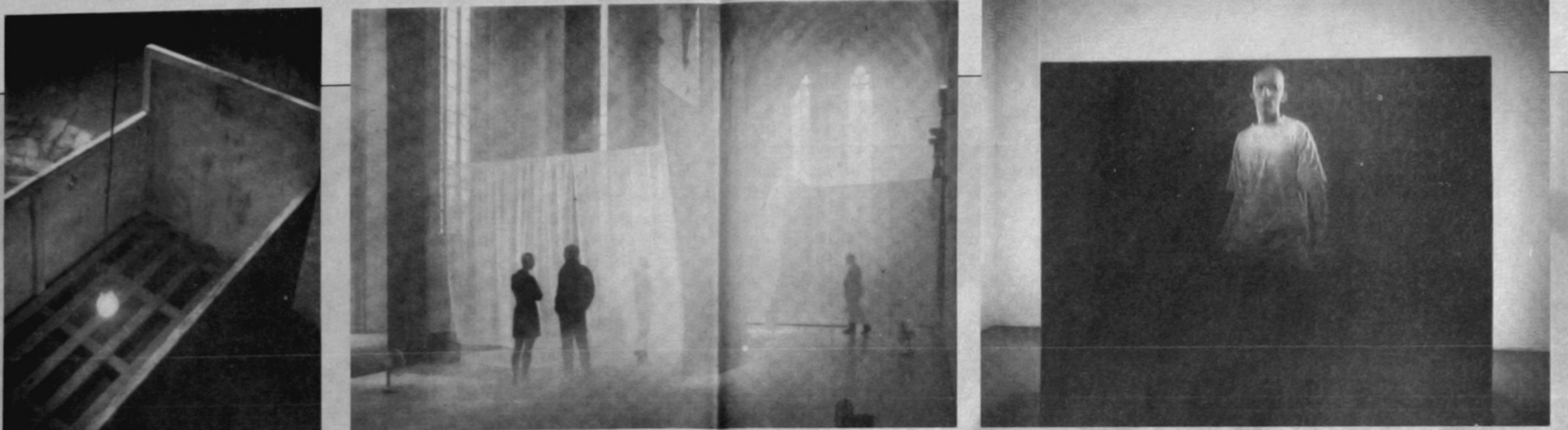
The Stephen A. and Diana L. Goldberg Foundation, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts, The Greenwall Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Friends.

Photo (this page) Untitled, 1990
Installation on site, Le Pavillon de l'Europe
shopping cart, feathering, lamp, lamp, projection
Collection Les Musées d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

Premises is organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. HUGO BOSS is the sponsor of Premises as part of its ongoing support of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. Transportation assistance is provided by Air France. DVD production and integration is provided by Zuma Digital.



"In his installations Claude Lévéque proves a skillful manipulator of the unresolved tension between the abject and the marvellous, the vulgar and the exceptional, the anodine and the decisive, the delectable and the repugnant, the tender and the wild. They set up an interference amidst fact, scramble common sense, jam conformity and introduce otherness: they make reality unreal, beautiful."²



Photograph credits for pages two and three
from left to right

Untitled, 1996
"Je trou dans la tête"

Troubles, 1997
Installation on site,
Kasseler Kunstszenen, Kassel

My Way, 1996
Installation on site,
ARC - Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

[background image]
I wanna be your dog, 1996
Atelier Sainte-Anne, Bruxelles

My Way, 1996
Installation on site,
ARC - Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Whirlwind, 1998
Installation on site,
Südliche Galerie, Bremen

Appartement occupé, 1994
(detail) Bourges

Photograph credit page four

More Light, 1998 (detail)
Installation on site
Ville Arson, Nice

Drawing (background)
Storefront NYC, 1998
for installation on site

Untitled, 1998 Storefront for Art and Architecture

Bleak private apartments, emptied coat-check rooms, abandoned public spaces, unused municipal swimming pools: these are some of the spaces Claude Lévéque's work has occupied over the years. Lévéque transgresses the boundaries of the white cube, severing the dependence on codified, sanitized spaces framed by museum walls.

From his first one-person show at Galerie Eric Fabre in 1984 to a more recent project designed for a concert hall in Brussels (Atelier Sainte Anne, 1996), Lévéque has constructed a body of work from a scant material vocabulary. At times his interventions are nearly invisible: manipulating a room's illumination, scattering pieces of clothing, adding a disco ball or randomly hanging strands of lights to a space. Lévéque infuses the ambience of a given place with a sense of a brutally interrupted event: his early silent spaces suggest that the music has just been shut off, and the visitor has the impression he or she has missed the end of the party. When music does figure into his work, it spans the range of his obsessions, from the Sex Pistols to German techno-fusion like Atari Teenage Riot. Lévéque does not hesitate to harness the energy of fashion; the use of current music invests his work with the timely force of a youth culture rebellion. These forms are not appropriated. The present tense is pushed to its own ends.

Alison M. Gingeras and Bernard Blistène
From the *Préface: Inhabited Spaces in Visual Arts,
Architecture, and Design from France, 1958-98 Catalogue*

1. Benjamin H. D. Buchloh, "Critical Reflections," *Antonin* (January 1997).
2. Eric Troncy, "The Unreality of the World" in Claude Lévéque, *My Way* (éd. cat.) Paris: ARC, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1996.

Bernard Blistène is Chief Curator and Deputy Director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne et the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Alison Gingeras is an Assistant Curator at the Guggenheim Museum.

Claude Lévéque -Who is where?

Claude Lévéque finds themes and artistic devices for his work in the actual places, objects, situations, and events which are in his surroundings, the varied milieu of the suburbs of Paris, on the street or in politics. There, the traces of life are continuous, full of that which constitutes daily violence at home in the crib ("Je trou dans la tête", 1986), at the big party which leaves behind a ravaged room, in which

only the disco ball continues to innocently spread its magical light, ("I wanna be your dog", 1986, Brussels) to the consciousness of great and small bourgeois dreams and fears, the atom bomb as a decorative neon line (*Installation*, 1993) or Mickey Mouse with the NS-Confcentration Camp Auschwitz motto "Arbeit macht frei" as a speech bubble. ("Arbeit macht frei", 1992)

After coming to Paris, he became interested in Joseph Beuys and Christian Boltanski who, next to the Nouveau Réalisme Movement, made the strongest impression on him. Yet there are important differences in the use of the material, place, and the interest in history.

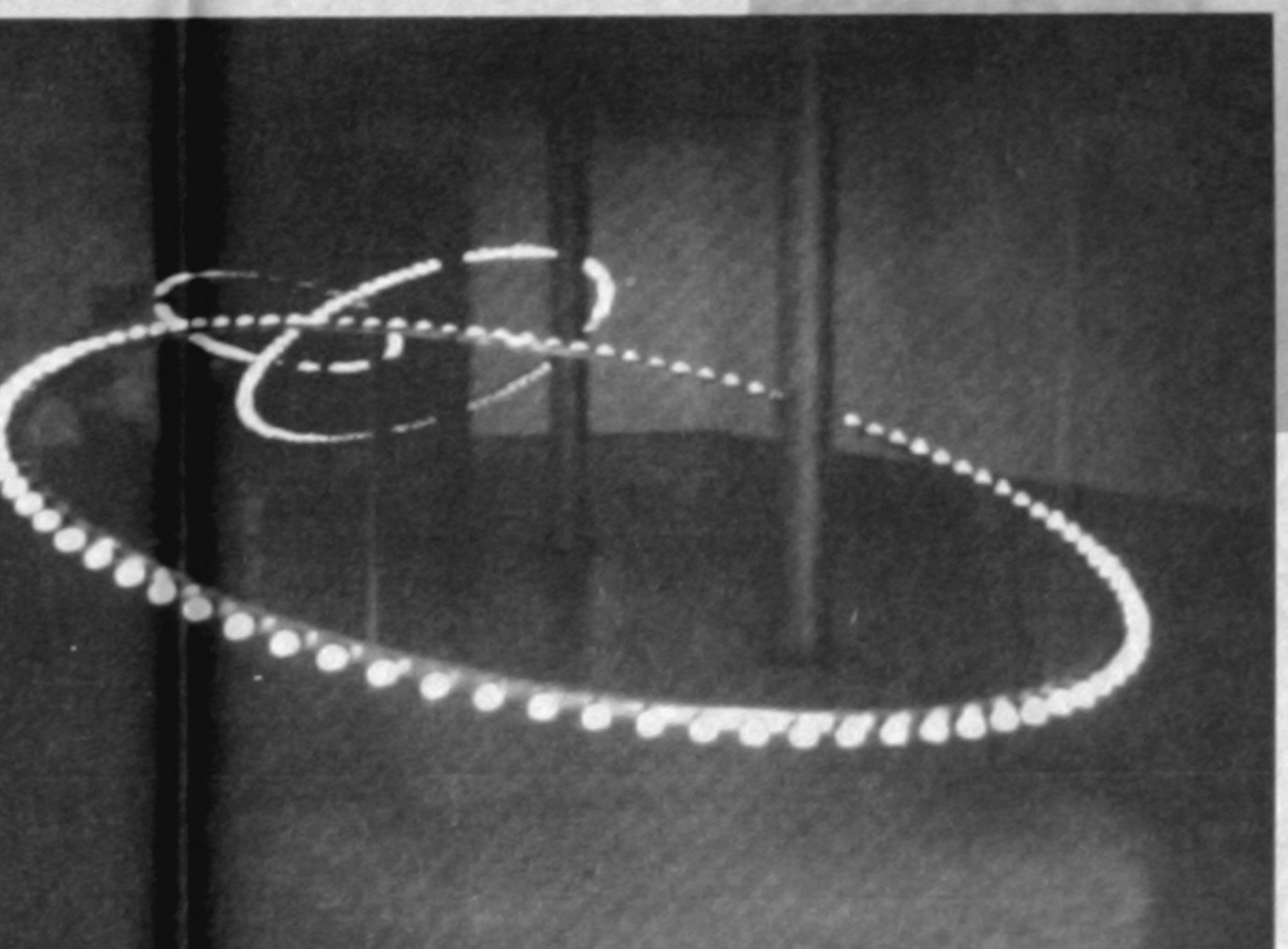
To begin with, Claude Lévéque defines the point of view and line of sight as a photographer, calling to mind Weegee's New York. Yet his observations and discoveries do not serve to invent a sensational picture of a horrible staging of a realistic environment, but the observation of and respect for the object, the place, the situation as the sign of the use of life, of persons, of emotions and events, of memory and history. Claude Lévéque reads that which is present as a symbolic sign of a self forming question. Thus the teddy bear defends himself with a note on his belly: "J'ai rien à perdre - je suis dé ja mort".

It is fascinating to note that even with all of his "realism", he has never adopted a cynical or ironic posture, is not at all pedagogical or comical, but shows objective compassion... in all its seventy.

The abandoned mattress, vertically placed, multiplies itself to small paths and 'sleeping rooms'. Their bleached color in the harsh neon light combined with the private bed smell, releases associations of childhood caves to underground parking decks. The flower on the wallpaper is a green neon light, blinking on the wall and window. It signalizes. The flat is occupied - by the artist.

Claude Lévéque's work in neon have been, from the beginning, his most contradictory signs - even if they are only a detail of his installation. For example: "cerveau labyrinth en tube néon elgiontant" (1993): The eye searches for possible ways between the trembling, twisting paths of the brain, between broken and overlapping neon lines, without finding a significant direction. He constructs the nervous system or twisting brain in square, hand painted forms. The right half of the brain blinks like a metaphorical neon sign and colors the room red and orange in the manner of pulsating thought.

Yet Claude Lévéque's theme always remains graspable and traverseable reality. It is the objectivity which makes the "visitor's" sensual experience so ambivalent. He cannot remain outside; he must participate. Appartement Occupé was the playground or labyrinth in which one was forced to walk, stand still and climb. Even My Way (1996, Paris) was a marathon through various rooms organized in a circle, a parcours of being. His installation, Troubles, in Kassel, is the path through a labyrinth of transparent white cloths, blind in a dense fog with which the early gothic space of the church is filled.



The aggressiveness in his production is not real, it originates in the projection of the observer, of those who read the stories or invent something out of the pictures in their heads - the objects have, in the meantime, become truly dead. The situation, recognized as production, becomes a topic, the arrangement becomes an artistic composition.

The relationship between documentary and representational methods, of the placement of quotes and signs, remains ambivalent: In Appartement Occupé (1994, Paris) the setting is a vacant apartment in a new development. Everything explains itself at first, does not need to be changed in order to be evident and aesthetic. The district, the block of houses, the playground, the vacant apartment, the flowery wallpaper, etc. In a type of overlapping, Claude Lévéque offers an artistic answer to their ever present theme.

Claude Lévéque always carries a camera with him in order to be able to take a precise look at every day situations or details. Enlarged, these pictures are lent a new explosiveness through the hand written, scrawled comments. "Nous voulons en finir avec ce monde irréel", is written on a shaky blue dyed photo in which an exuberant, happy family is gathered together around a meal, freely presenting themselves to the artist. This sentence originated from the diary of an innocent school girl as the beginning of a revolutionary manifest. This innocent, under this motto and with unbelievable cold bloodedness, kills three police officers and a taxi driver during an assassination attempt.

Troubles - Where am I here anyway?

By Bernhard Balkenhol